



Maternal and Newborn Health Care Policy Brief

INTRODUCTION

Institutional births have increased dramatically across the globe, including in sub-Saharan Africa, but the places where births occur vary enormously and are poorly understood.

Countdown to 2030 analyzed maternal and newborn health data from Kenya in the last two decades. The study aims to inform the best balance of childbirth care services across facilities to adequately provide life-saving and respectful childbirth care. Data sources included DHS, HMIS, and others.

FINDINGS

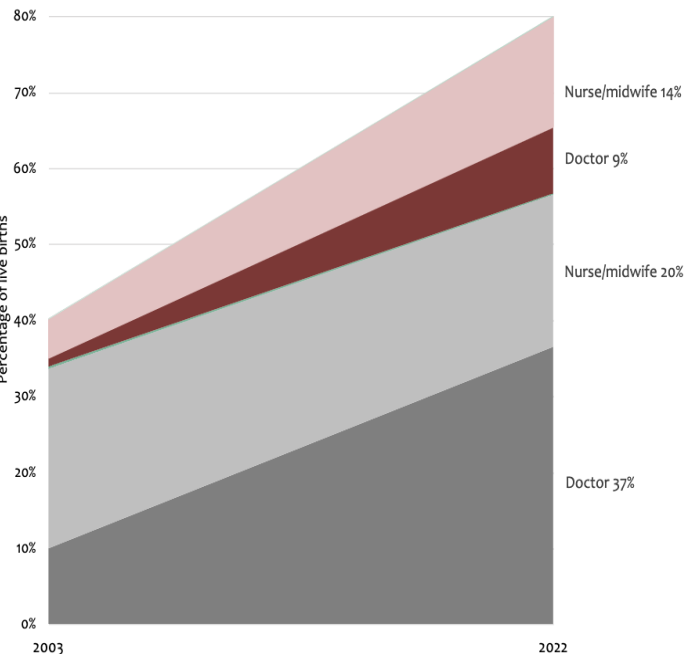
Birth Attendance & Place of Delivery

Proportion of deliveries in the hospitals and having skilled attendants has been increasing over the years.

Half of the deliveries in the rural areas occur at home while a third occur in the hospitals. However, for the urban areas, more than 60% of the deliveries occur in the hospitals with around 10% occurring in the lower-level facilities.

Around 80% of the women from the lower quintiles deliver at home while majority (more than 60%) from the higher quintiles deliver in hospitals.

Birth Attendant and Place of Birth , 2003 -2022



Volume and Concentration of Care

72% of facilities had <50 births per month.

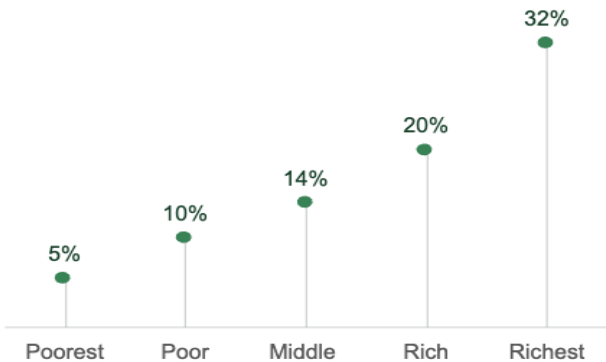
11% of the reported livebirths were from facilities with birth volume <50 births per month. While 38.3% of the births reported are from the facilities with birth volume of 400+ per month.

Cesarean Section

Public hospitals perform most CS procedures. Both public and private health centers consistently have low CS volumes.

The richest have access to CS at 32% compared to the poorest at 5%.

C-section rates by wealth quintile (2022)



RECOMMENDATIONS & NEXT STEPS

- ✓ Upgrade the infrastructure and provide necessary medical equipment and supplies to dispensaries and clinics to handle childbirth complications effectively.
- ✓ Implement targeted training programs for healthcare workers in dispensaries and clinics to manage childbirth and address complications.
- ✓ Establish efficient referral systems to ensure timely transfer of high-risk cases from lower-level facilities to hospitals.

Learn More:

www.countdown.org/maternal-newborn-health